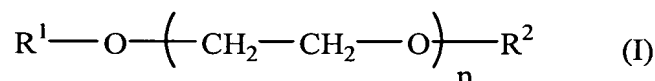


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A W/O/W type oil adjuvant for a vaccine comprising (a) an inner aqueous phase ~~comprising a biologically acceptable and effective amount of antigen,~~ (b) an oil component phase which is in a liquid state at a temperature in the range of 15-25 °C, and (c) an outer aqueous phase comprising 0.5 - 20 wt% of a polyethylene glycol derivative having a molecular weight of 400 - 20,000, which is represented by the following formula (I)



wherein R¹ and R² may be the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and n is a polymerization degree, ~~and wherein the inner aqueous phase is discontinuous and suspended in the oil component phase, and the oil component phase is discontinuous and suspended in the outer aqueous phase.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol derivative of the formula (I) has a molecular weight of 1,000 - 10,000.

3. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, wherein the outer aqueous phase comprises 1 - 10 wt% of the polyethylene glycol derivative of the formula (I).

4. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, which is a W/O/W type oil adjuvant for a vaccine prepared by the steps of

(a) preparing a W/O emulsion comprising an oil component (A) which becomes liquid at room temperature, an emulsifier (B) and an aqueous component (C) ~~comprising a biologically acceptable and effective amount of an antigen,~~ and

(b) dispersing or emulsifying the W/O emulsion in a liquid comprising an emulsifier (D) and an aqueous component (E), wherein the liquid comprises 0.5 - 20 wt% of a polyethylene glycol derivative having a molecular weight of 400 - 20,000, which is represented by the formula (I).

5. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, which is a W/O/W type oil adjuvant for a vaccine prepared by the steps of

(a) preparing a W/O emulsion comprising an oil component (A) which becomes liquid at room temperature, an emulsifier (B) and an aqueous component (C) ~~comprising a biologically acceptable and effective amount of an antigen,~~

(b) dispersing or emulsifying the W/O emulsion in a liquid comprising an emulsifier (D) and an aqueous component (E), and

(c) adding a polyethylene glycol derivative having a molecular weight of 400 - 20,000, which is represented by the formula (I), to the outer aqueous phase to a concentration of 0.5 - 20 wt%.

6. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 4, wherein the oil component (A), which becomes liquid at room temperature, comprises a fatty acid ester or squalene or a fatty acid ester and squalene in a proportion of not less than 20 wt% of an oil phase.

7. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 4, wherein the emulsifier (B) has an HLB of less than 10.

8. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 7, wherein the emulsifier (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a partial ester of polyhydric alcohol and a fatty acid, and a non-ionic surfactant having a polyoxyethylene chain.

9. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 4, wherein the emulsifier (D) has an HLB of not less than 10.

10. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 9, wherein the emulsifier (D) comprises a non-ionic surfactant having a polyoxyethylene chain.

11. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 5, wherein the oil component (A), which becomes liquid at room temperature, comprises a fatty acid ester or squalene or a fatty acid ester and squalene in a proportion of not less than 20 wt% of an oil phase.

12. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 5, wherein the emulsifier (B) has an HLB of less than 10.

13. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 12, wherein the emulsifier (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a partial

ester of polyhydric alcohol and a fatty acid, and a non-ionic surfactant having a polyoxyethylene chain.

14. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 5, wherein the emulsifier (D) has an HLB of not less than 10.

15. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 14, wherein the emulsifier (D) comprises a non-ionic surfactant having a polyoxyethylene chain.

16. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, wherein the outer aqueous phase comprises 1 - 5 wt% of the polyethylene glycol derivative of the formula (I).

17. (Currently Amended) The oil adjuvant ~~vaccine~~ of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol derivative of the formula (I) has a molecular weight of 3,000 - 9,000.